

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EB-07 /066 W

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O 010805Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7472

'Z/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 6075

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9183

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, AF, PFOR

SUBJECT: PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS

1. DCM CALLED ON MR. A.A. FAROOQ, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (IRAN, TURKEY AND AFGHANISTAN), AUGUST 31 TO DISCUSS PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS IN WAKE OF DAOUD'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN. FAROOQ ECHOED COMMENTS HEARD BOTH HERE AND IN KABUL THAT IT VIEWED PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM." FAROOQ SAID THERE HAD BEEN STEADY FORWARD MOVEMENT, THE ATMOSPHERE FOR CONTINUING PROGRESS WAS VERY GOOD, AND NEITHER SIDE WAS TRYING TO FORCE THE PACE.

2. FAROOQ ADDED THAT A PAK NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT AIR LINKS WERE TO BE REESTABLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS FALSE. HE SAID THE GOP, DURING THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS, HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED TRADE TIES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND RESUMPTION OF AIR ROUTES. HOWEVER, THE PAKISTANIS REALIZE THIS WILL TAKE SOME TIME AND ARE NOT PUSHING THE AFGHANS. FAROOQ SAID THE GOP BELIEVED THAT DAOUD HIMSELF, HAVING CREATED THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE, WAS IN THE BEST POSITION TO UNDO IT, AND MUST ALSO MAKE THE DECISION AS TO WHEN AFGHAN OPINION WAS READY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

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3. FAROOQ ALSO NOTED THE GOP BELIEVES THE AFGHANS ARE SINCERE IN

THEIR DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH WHEN BHUTO FIRST

VISITED KABUL THERE WAS SOME SKEPTICISM ON THE PAKISTANI SIDE, DURING THE DAOUD VISIT THE AFGHANS HAD SPOKEN CANDIDLY AND SINCE-RELY AND THE GOP NOW BELIEVES KABUL IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN MOVING AHEAD. FAROOQ SAID THE FACT THAT THE AFGHANS ASKED THAT THE PHRASE "SPIRIT OF KABUL" BE INCLUDED IN THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE WAS A GOOD SIGN.

4. FAROOQ ALSO NOTED THE GOP WAS PLEASED WITH A PORTION OF DAOUD'S INTERVIEW WITH THE BBC BEFORE HE LEFT COLOMBO. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, DAOUD MENTIONED THAT BOTH THE BALUCHIS AND PATHANS WERE REPRESENTED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE 1973 CONSTITUTION, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN RESPECTED THEIR DECISION TO SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION. REPORTEDLY, DAOUD WAS EQUALLY POSITIVE AND CONCILIATORY IN OTHER PORTIONS OF THE INTERVIEW. (WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN TEXT.) FAROOQ DID ADMIT THAT DAOUD'S REPLY TO A QUESTION THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE NAP GOVERNMENTS REINSTITUTED IN BALUCHISTAN AND THE FRONTIER WAS NOT HELPFUL BUT NOTED THERE WAS REALLY NO OTHER WAY HE COULD RESPOND.

5. THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION, FAROOQ EMPHASIZED THERE WAS NO TIME-TABLE, THAT NO PRESSURE WAS BEING PUT ON BY EITHER SIDE AND THAT BOTH WERE PROCEEDING IN A BUSINESS-LIKE AND POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE. HE SAID BHUTTO'S NEXT TRIP TO KABUL HAS NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED, BUT HE EXPECTS IT TO COME SOON AFTER THE END OF RAMAZAN.

6. THE DCM ASKED IF MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED'S PRESENT TRIP TO TEHRAN WAS SCHEDULED ON SHORT NOTICE, AND FAROOQ REPLIED HIS VISIT IS PART OF THE CONTINUING SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN TEHRAN AND ISLAMABAD. HE ADDED NOTHING SPECIAL SHOULD BE READ INTO THE TRIP. THE EMBASSY ASSUMES ONE IMPORTANT PART OF AZIZ AHMED'S BRIEF FOR HIS DISCUSSIONS IN TEHRAN WILL BE TO REPORT TO THE SHAH ON THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST BHUTTO/DAOUD TALKS. BYROADE

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